

20230130_MCFP_AM_Support_MD_SB78_Licensure_Enhance

Uploaded by: Christopher Arnold

Position: FAV



MANPOWER AND
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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

January 31, 2023

**Maryland Senate
Senate Committee on Finance
11 Bladen Street Room 2 West Wing
Annapolis, MD**

**Senator Melony G. Griffith
Chair**

**Remarks of
Christopher R. Arnold
Northeast Region Liaison
United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office**

Support of: SB 78 – Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Testimony

The Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support policy changes proposed in Maryland Senate Bill 78, which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. This legislation would require health occupations boards to issue a temporary expedited license, certificate, or registration to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meet certain requirements, within fifteen days.

My name is Christopher Arnold. I am the Mid-Atlantic region liaison at the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We represent the Department and establish relationships with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, and the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

As part of these efforts, Maryland passed Chap 154 and 155, the "Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013," regarding Service member licensure and credit for military training and education as well as expediting military spouse license applications.¹ However, these methods proved insufficient to address the underlying concerns of military spouses.²

Senate Bill 78 echoes the historic 2020 military spouse legislation by Senate President Ferguson which eased application requirements for a service member, veteran, or military spouse who

¹ Fiscal and Policy Note (Senate Bill 78). Department of Legislative Services, Maryland General Assembly. 2023 Session. https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/fnotes/bil_0008/sb0078.pdf

² See *supra* at 1.

applies for an occupational or professional license. The President’s bill, Chap 177, enacted revisions to reciprocity requirements for occupations and professions regulated by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, removing the requirement for a substantial equivalency determination. This bill makes similar improvements for occupations and professions governed by the health occupational boards.

In a letter to former Governor Hogan accompanying the Secretary of Defense’s 2019 report on military spouse licensure, the Department noted that “*Current law requires boards to evaluate the substantial equivalency of the applicant’s application prior to issuing the temporary license, which likely requires the verifying documentation for the review. Limiting this requirement to issuance of the permanent license, or stipulating that the boards perform their initial due diligence using an application, and an affidavit, would limit the time and effort required of the military spouse applicant.*”³ While Chapter 177 addressed such recommendation, it did not apply to the health occupations.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and their spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. The Department contracted with the Center for Research and Outreach (REACH) at the University of Minnesota, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service, to evaluate the outcome of DoD’s 2011 – 2016 efforts to improve license reciprocity for service members and military spouses.

The Center for REACH conducted a 50-State review of the laws enacted and an assessment of the approach taken by six occupational boards in each State to implement these laws.⁴ Its State-by-State evaluation provides a basis for evaluating the impact of these laws, and specific recommendations for Maryland included passage of “*legislation that provides support for temporary licenses for military spouses licensed in another state as most boards do not offer a temporary license option for spouses.*”⁵

The Military Spouse License Portability Assessment was launched by the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Pennsylvania State University in 2021 to inform Department of Defense policy makers of the amount of time it takes military spouses to obtain an occupational license when they have an inter-state relocation due to a Permanent Change of Station.⁶ Only one of the three health boards examined met the Department's baseline for military spouses to begin working within thirty days, and one board took over thirty days to process a license.⁷ Their recommendations echoed the prior findings.

³ Department of Defense. *Military Spouse Licensure: State Best Practices and Strategies for Achieving Reciprocity*. November 2019. <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/military-spouse-licensure-report-2019.pdf>

⁴ Six occupations reviewed: cosmetology, dental hygiene, massage therapy, mental health counseling, occupational therapy, and real estate.

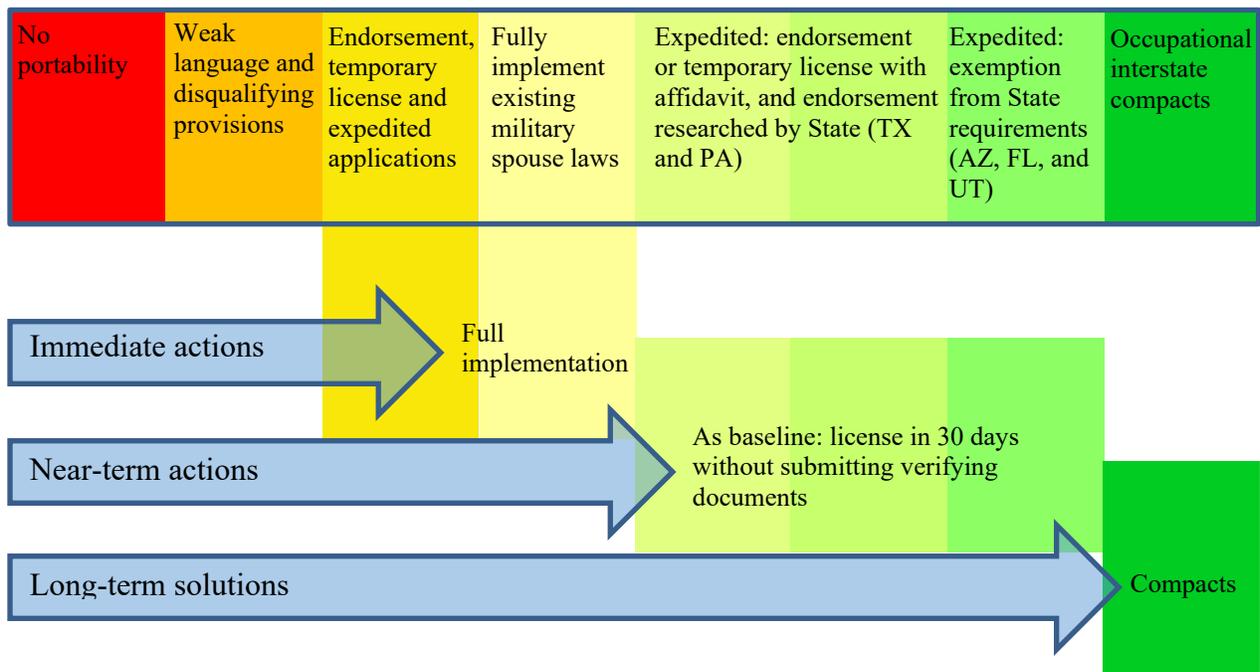
⁵ Lynne M. Borden, PhD, Et al, “Military Spouse Licensure Portability Examination,” Center for Research and Outreach, University of Minnesota, <https://reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu/research/document/13865>

⁶ “Military Spouse License Portability Assessment.” Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness. <https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/mslp/>

⁷ “Maryland.” Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness. https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/mslp/state-findings/mslp_maryland.pdf

Under federal law, the military departments are required to produce annual strategic basing scorecards, evaluating quality-of-life factors such as spouse licensure.⁸ The Department of the Air Force evaluated Maryland “Amber” for seven of the nine occupations considered on its most recent assessment of the availability of license reciprocity.⁹

Understanding that military spouses need assistance now, and that many States have already committed to a variety of approaches, the Department advocates that States should pursue multiple approaches to reciprocity simultaneously. Available alternatives can be categorized as being more immediately attainable, achievable within the near-term, or obtainable in the long-term:



The Department encourages States to engage in immediate actions to fully implement military spouse licensure laws, near-term actions to at least attain a baseline of getting military spouses a license in 30 days based on minimal documentation, and removing substantially equivalent language; and long-term solutions for reciprocity through compacts. How fast these actions and solutions can be approved and implemented is up to the States. The Department’s current

⁸ Pub. L. 116–283, div. B, title XXVIII, §2883, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4370, provided that the Department and each of the military services to produce annual basing decision scorecards at the state and installation level considering military family readiness issues, including interstate portability of licensure credentials.

The secretaries must consider “*whether the State in which an installation subject to a basing decision is or will be located ... has entered into reciprocity agreements to recognize and accept professional and occupational licensure and certification credentials granted by or in other States or allows for the transfer of such licenses and certifications granted by or in other States.*” (10 U.S. Code § 1781b)

⁹ Support of Military Families 2021. Department of the Air Force.
https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2021SAF/09_Sept/External_CASH_single_map_file_v4.2.pdf

evaluation of states, validated through the 2021 study conducted by Penn State University, indicates approximately 60 percent of states have achieved DoD criteria.¹⁰

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Maryland has historically made to support our uniformed service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the passage of the policies reflected in Senate Bill 78 and are especially grateful to Senator Jackson for introducing this important piece of legislation.

As always, as liaison to the Mid-Atlantic region, I stand ready to answer whatever questions you may have.

Yours etc.,

CHRISTOPHER R. ARNOLD
Mid-Atlantic Region Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

¹⁰ *See supra* at 7.

SB 78- Health Occupations – Service Members, Veter

Uploaded by: Erin Dorrien

Position: FAV



Maryland
Hospital Association

January 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Melony G. Griffith, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support- Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Dear Chair Griffith:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of Senate Bill 78.

Maryland hospitals are facing the most critical staffing shortage in recent memory. A 2022 [GlobalData](#) report estimates a statewide shortage of 5,000 full-time registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses. Without intervention, shortages could double or even triple by 2035. MHA's [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#) outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future.

One recommendation for policymakers is to leverage the proximity to the state's military bases by launching a "Green to Blue" campaign to enable the timely transition of discharged and retired military personnel with caregiver experience. We must invite every qualified health care worker to join the workforce. The training and expertise this population has is valuable. Easing the transition to working in a civilian capacity would benefit the entire health care system.

SB 78 would expedite licensure for qualifying service members, veterans, and military spouses by issuing a temporary license. Additionally, the bill requires each health occupations board to collect data, including the number of applications received, number processed, number not processed, and the reason for delayed processing. This data can help identify other barriers.

The state has taken steps to support members of the military, veterans, and their families through past legislation. Additionally, several health occupations boards offer expedited licensing, and some offer temporary licenses. However, states like Virginia have robust programs that provide support throughout the process.¹ SB 78 can ensure Maryland does not lose qualified health care workers to neighboring states.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on SB 78.

For more information, please contact:
Erin Dorrien, Vice President, Policy
Edorrien@mhaonline.org

¹ Virginia Department of Veterans Services. "[Military Medics and Corpsmen Program](#)."

SB0078 FAV JOTF Testimony - Veterans OL in Health

Uploaded by: Ioana Stoica

Position: FAV

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0078:
Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary
Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting**

TO: Chair Melony Griffith, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Ioana Stoica, Policy Advocate

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2023

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. **JOTF strongly supports Senate Bill 0078 as a means of expanding occupational licensure access to our veterans and military families, and of more quickly filling positions in a field facing severe shortages with qualified professionals.**

The Institute for Justice ranks Maryland as 11th in most burdensome licensing laws and 20th in most broadly and onerously licensed state, with almost 60% of all low-income occupations requiring an occupational license. In 2015, the Obama administration released a framework for reforming occupational licensing policy. The subsequent FY2016 Budget included \$15 million for Department of Labor funding to identify, explore, and address areas where licensing requirements create barriers to labor market entry and labor mobility. This funding was used in part to establish a multi-year study of a consortium of 11 states, including Maryland. The Consortium final report, released in 2020, identified three populations facing the most significant barriers to employment due to licensure requirements: immigrants, individuals with a criminal record, and **veterans and military spouses**. Senate Bill 0078 would begin addressing this undue burden by requiring health occupations boards to issue temporary expedited licenses, certificates, or registrations to service members, veterans, and military spouses who meet educational and other competency requirements.

Military spouses and veterans relocate more frequently than the average US resident, and they routinely face obstacles in transferring their occupational licenses during these transitions, which are already fraught with many other challenges, such as acclimating to new schools and communities and maneuvering the logistics of moving. Transferring licenses is often expensive,

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

time-consuming, and can cause families to struggle financially as they wait for approval and as they seek new employment. A 2017 U.S. Chamber of Commerce survey found that nearly half of military spouses describe their financial situation as ‘struggling’ or living ‘paycheck to paycheck.’ This study also found that active duty spouses earn 27% less than their peers in large part due to having to accept work not commensurate with their qualifications, due to difficulties arising from transferring their professional license.

Defense officials calculate that the US is home to over 16 million veterans and to more than 710,000 active duty military spouses. Of these, 132,000 active duty spouses work in occupations that require licensing, representing about 39% of military spouses who participate in the workforce. The Office of People Analytics estimates that 15% of active duty spouses are black compared to 13.5% of the US population, that 5% are other or multi-racial, compared to 4.3% of the US population, and that 90% are women. By expanding access to employment for these populations, this bill would reduce racial and gender employment and wage gaps, in line with research from the University of Chicago that shows that occupational licensing has reduced the racial wage gap between white and black men by 43 percent, and the gender wage gap between women and white men by 36 to 40 percent.

Workforce struggles of veterans and military families have been recognized by a bipartisan coalition at the federal level. President Biden signed the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act into law on January 6th, 2023. This bill requires licensing reciprocity between states - but states must take action to implement this federal mandate. We strongly urge this committee to pass this bill as a means of expanding the labor pool in our State and of unlocking economic growth by supporting our military families and veterans in obtaining expedited access to employment. **We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 0078.**

For more information, contact:

Ioana Stoica / Policy Advocate / ioana@jotf.org / 240-643-0059

SB0078.pdf

Uploaded by: Jonathan Dayton

Position: FAV



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Melony Griffith

January 30, 2023

**Senate Bill 78: Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting**

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 78, Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

For those individuals who meet certain requirements in order to practice in a timely manner and to provide necessary care to one's community we support expedited temporary licensing for those outlined above.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director

jdayton@mdruralhealth.org

HFAM Testimony SB 78.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph DeMattos

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

January 31, 2023

Senate Bill 78: Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure,
Certification, Registration, and Permitting
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: Favorable

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 78. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 78 requires health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a check-off box prominently on each license, certification, or registration application form; and, requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently certain information on its website.

HFAM has a long commitment to advocating for and supporting public policies that recognize the value that service members, veterans, and military spouses bring to the civilian workforce and Senate Bill 78 could not come at a more critical time.

In Maryland and throughout the country, we are facing a shortage of healthcare workers across settings, with particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field since the start of the pandemic. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool. Veterans and their partners have the potential to be a tremendous resource in the healthcare workforce crisis we currently face.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 78.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132

SB78JacksonTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
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Budget and Taxation Committee
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Chair, Pensions
Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 78

***HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS,
AND MILITARY SPOUSES – TEMPORARY LICENSURE,
CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION, AND PERMITTING***

FINANCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2023

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 78 is a straight-forward piece of legislation designed to get qualified individuals to work as quickly as possible in healthcare professions and to help our military community at the same time.

This bill would require each Maryland health occupations board to create an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration or permit for service members, their spouses and veterans who hold similar certifications in other states and who are going through the full application process for said positions in Maryland. This legislation would be applicable in numerous fields and help fill needs in a wide variety of critical healthcare professions including acupuncture, audiology, dentistry, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, general medicine, and social work.

The aim of this legislation is to create a mutually beneficial situation for both the State and for the military community whose service has brought them to Maryland.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 78.

SB0078_FAV_MACHC, MdCSWC_Serv. Mem., Vets., & Mil.

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV



MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

mdCSWC

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Michael A. Jackson

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

DATE: January 31, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 78 – *Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting*

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers and the Maryland Clinical Social Work Coalition, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 78.

Senate Bill 78 would allow the Health Occupation Boards to review and grant temporary licensure, certification, registration, and permitting of health practitioners to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets defined requirements for the relevant profession. The bill reflects sufficient safeguards to allow the Health Occupation Boards to protect the health and welfare of Maryland residents.

Access to health care challenges and the escalating workforce shortage, have been widely recognized as one of the most critical issues facing Maryland residents. Passage of Senate Bill 78 will not only provide increased access to care for Maryland residents, but will also enable service members, veterans, and their spouses to find employment in Maryland and be granted the authority to provide the health services they are qualified to deliver. A favorable report is requested.

MPA testimony 2023 - Support - Senate Bill 78 - He

Uploaded by: Pat Savage

Position: FAV



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January 15, 2023

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Senator Melony Griffith, Chair

Finance Committee

3 East, Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 78 Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses-
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in support of SB 78, which would allow Health Occupation Boards (HOBs) in the state of Maryland to review and grant temporary licensure, certification, registration, and permitting of health professionals to a service member, veteran or military spouse who meets certain requirements.

We believe that access to mental health care is one of the most critical issues facing many residents of Maryland. This bill appears to be a small but important piece of increasing access to care for Maryland residents. Given the transient and sometimes abrupt changes of residence that occur to service members, this legislation allows military health care providers, their spouse, or veterans an opportunity to immediately provide support to citizens in need of health care services. In addition, there appear to be sufficient safeguards included in the bill to allow our HOBs to continue to protect the health and welfare of Marylanders.

Benefits of this bill could include increased access to care for all Marylanders, ease of access to care for rural and underserved communities, disabled individuals, elderly, and members of our society who have been dislocated or are mobile. This bill could expand the reach of specialty care that might not be conveniently located in many areas of Maryland, where military facilities are located.

For these and many other reasons noted above the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 78.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 78. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

SB 0078 - MSBA Support Letter (2023.01.30).pdf

Uploaded by: Shaoli Katana

Position: FAV



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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section,
Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
Shaoli Katana, Esq., Advocacy Director

Subject: Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Date: January 30, 2023

Position: Support

The Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) supports **Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting**. Senate Bill 78 requires health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a check-off box prominently on each license, certification, or registration application form; requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently certain information on its website; etc.

MSBA represents more attorneys than any other organization across the State in all practice areas. MSBA serves as the voice of Maryland's legal profession. This testimony is submitted on behalf of the MSBA's Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section, charged with monitoring and taking positions on legislation of importance to this practice area.

Military families change duty stations frequently, and during a twenty-year career, might have in excess of ten “permanent change of station” or “PCS” moves. These moves are incredibly disruptive, and even more so for the spouse of a service member if that spouse holds a professional license. Transferring a professional license from one state to another can take months, resulting in the family member being effectively cut out of the workforce while they wait for administrative processing. Other industries have realized this, which is why the Maryland Rules of Procedure were amended a few years ago to add what amounts to temporary licensing for military spouses who are attorneys licensed in other states.

The burden created by not having some form of expedited/temporary licensure not only hurts retention in the military because of the burden it places on the military family, but it also contributes to the workforce shortage in healthcare fields. Hopefully, SB 78 will fix this problem and make Maryland a more friendly state to military families.

For the reasons stated above, MSBA’s Veterans’ Affairs and Military Law Section **supports** SB 78 and respectfully requests a **favorable report**. For additional information, please feel free to contact Shaoli Katana at MSBA at shaoli@msba.org or Section Chair, Andy Gross, at Agross@agrosslaw.com.

MAND Testimony 2023 - SUPPORT - Senate Bill 78 - H

Uploaded by: Daniel Shattuck

Position: FWA

MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



Date: January 31, 2023

Bill: Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Committee: Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair

Position: **SUPPORT with Amendment**

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics represents about 1200 Registered and Licensed Dietitians/Nutritionists in the state. MAND appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 78. Licensed Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists work in many different types of facilities from hospitals to schools, supermarkets to long term care facilities. Our mission is to educate the citizens of Maryland in the health implications of good nutrition with evidenced based information.

We write in support of Senate Bill 78 - Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

We certainly have seen firsthand the shortage of healthcare workers especially during this pandemic. We also appreciate how those who serve us through military service must move often.

With this in mind, MAND would like to offer for the Committee’s consideration two clarifying amendments to SB 78 to help ensure we continue to give the best care to our citizens.

- On Page 4 add to the end of 2: “and the qualifications for issuance of such credentials are no less stringent than or at least substantially similar to those of this state.”
- In addition on page 4, VII B(1) add at the end of the paragraph, “as long as the applicant meets relevant qualifications of that Board for issuance of the license, certificate, registration or permit to practice that health occupation.”

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have about our amendments.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Glenda L. Lindsey, Dr. PH, MS, RDN, LDN
Public Policy Coordinator
glendalindsey@msn.com

Ashley Lewis, RDN
MAND President
president@eatwellmd.org

Nash MMC Testimony in Support of SB0078_Jan 30 23.

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FWA



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

SB 0078 – Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary
Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
January 31, 2023

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the Communications Director, for the Maryland Military Coalition, and as the Director representing the 1200 U.S. Public Health Officers who live in Maryland, I stand before you for the third time to request your favorable report for SB 78 - Temporary Licensure for Health Occupations. For the record, my name is Lynn Nash. I am a 30-year, retired service member and nurse who believes that SB0078 is a common-sense approach to protect the public, while at the same time relieving critical shortages across the spectrum of healthcare occupations. Those shortages are highest in nursing and behavioral health.

- A recent [Chamber of Commerce study](#) on military spouses found that **67% of military spouses had to quit a job because their spouse received change-in-duty-station orders.**
- The [Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University](#) found that **50 percent of military spouses work in a field that requires occupational licensing.**
- Applying for a new license every time that you relocate, is a **burdensome, expensive process.**
- In the health occupations, there are 50 states, the District of Columbia and 4 territories with **55 state-specific Practice acts** and **55 DIFFERENT licensing processes.**
- [Navigating the requirements, rules, regulations and fees is a significant challenge](#), especially as all are ALREADY LICENSED and in GOOD STANDING in another state.
- According to the [Goldwater Institute](#), licensure **portability hits military families who relocate every two to three years the hardest**, a fact that negatively influences reenlistment decisions and the military's ability to retain and recruit.
- The Department of Defense sees licensure as a [readiness issue](#), which is why it has been pursuing license portability for **over 15 years.**

SB 78 mitigates these problems by allowing for a temporary, expedited licensure process, something that is a **grave need in Maryland**, where [our own Board of nursing's website](#) states that they “**continue to experience delays in processing initial and renewal applications for**

licensure due to information technology limitations, numerous vacant full-time positions, and decreased operational resources”.

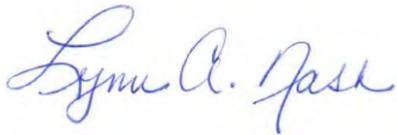
However, I do ask for **two amendments**:

- First, **remove the one-year application restriction for Veterans**, especially if you want to improve the number of available practitioners.
- And second, **that you require the establishment of same day, walk-through, temporary licensing**, like five other states.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 19 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 0078 and asks for your ***favorable report with amendments***.

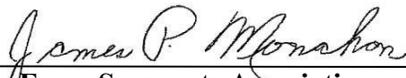
Thank you to Senator Jackson for sponsoring this important legislation and for amending the language in this year’s bill to the more inclusive term of “uniformed service”. Temporary licensure **is one of our top 4 issues**. We appreciate his leadership in this critical area and look forward to working with he and Delegate Crosby on this issue.

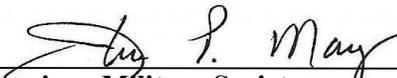
Respectfully,

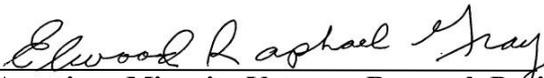


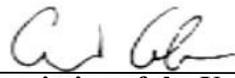
Lynn A. Nash

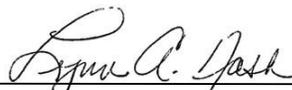
Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

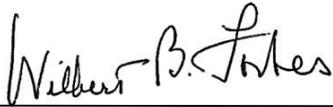

Air Force Sergeants Association

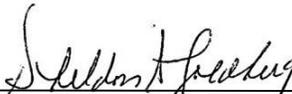

American Military Society

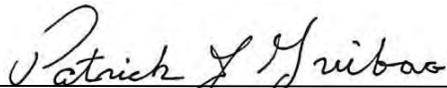

American Minority Veterans Research Project


Association of the United States Navy

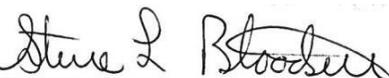

Commissioned Officers Association of the
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Fleet Reserve Association


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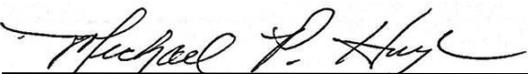

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Association


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Military Order of the Purple Heart

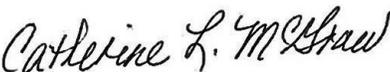

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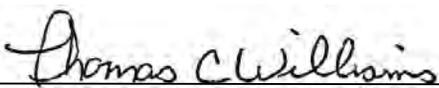

National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

Nash MMC Written Support of SB 78_ Jan 30 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FWA



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 30, 2023

Chairwoman Melanie Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: Request for Favorable Report with Amendment – SB0078, Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition, I am writing in support of SB 078, Temporary Licensure for Health Occupations. For the record, my name is Lynn Nash. I am a nurse and the Communications Director for the Coalition. I started out my uniformed services career as a military spouse, and then went on to serve for over 30 years on active duty in both the U.S. Army and Public Health Service.

As an expert, I would like to provide background on this bill.

- SB 78, creates a temporary, expedited licensure process for service members, veterans, or military spouses.
- Maryland has a **duty to protect** those who receive care. It does this through licensing.
- [Licensing](#) is the process to grant permission to an individual to engage in practice after determining that the applicant has attained the **competency necessary to perform a unique scope of practice**.
- According to the [Goldwater Institute](#), the average military family moves every 2-3 years. For military spouses, these frequent relocations mean major disruptions in their careers.
- The [Chamber of Commerce](#) reports that **67% of military spouses had to quit a job because their spouse received change-of-station orders**.
- In their report “[Supporting our Military Families: Best Practices for Streamlining Occupational Licenses](#)”, the Department of Labor and Defense estimate that unemployment rates for military spouse are **3 to 6 times greater than the national unemployment rate**, even though they **often have more experience and education**.
- The [Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse](#) University found that **50% of military spouses that work in fields that require occupational licenses**.

- To be eligible for employment, [military spouses in professions that require a license must navigate laws, policies, and regulations unique to each state](#).
- Applying for a new license every time that you relocate, is a **burdensome, expensive process**.
- **In the health occupations**, because there are 50 states, the District of Columbia and four territories, **EACH of the 55 localities have THEIR OWN, unique Practice Act** which govern what a person can do and EACH has **DIFFERENT** licensing processes.
- Navigating the [55 sets of requirements, rules, and fees](#), is a **SIGNIFICANT** challenge especially as all are **ALREADY LICENSED and in GOOD STANDING in another state**.
- As a result, the [Goldwater Institute](#) found that re-licensure hits military families who relocate so frequently the hardest, **ESPECIALLY HERE IN HIGH-COST-OF-LIVING MARYLAND**, where often both spouses need to work.
- The Department of Defense sees **licensure** as a **MAJOR issue** that negatively influences reenlistment decisions and the military's ability to recruit and retain service members. That is why [Defense has supported similar legislation for over 15 years](#) because they see the portability of licensure as a **readiness issue**.
- Every time service family moves, **the spouse often spends thousands of hours (and \$\$\$) to continue their career**.
- To apply for a license, the service member or spouse must:
 - Have a **valid license in another state that they have held for at least 1 year**;
 - Provide proof that EACH license held is valid, in good standing and has substantially similar qualifications;
 - **Remain in good standing** with the licensing authority that issued the previous license, and with every other licensing authority that has issued a license with a similar scope of practice to that person; **good standing = no complaints; and being active within 2 prior years**;
 - Provide a copy of the military orders to the new jurisdiction's licensing authority;
 - Complete an application and provide fingerprints and photos—this has an additional cost;
 - Submit to a national criminal history records check;
 - Agree to abide by the rules of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction in terms of standards of practice, discipline and meeting any continuing education requirements
 - And, provide proof that they have submitted a complete application and paid all fees.
- Validation of the documentation **can be accomplished in real time, at no cost, over secure connections**.
- Yet, Professional Boards cannot process licensure request in a timely manner. Our own [Maryland Board of Nursing website](#) states: the **“Board of Nursing continues to experience delays in processing initial and renewal applications for licensure and certification due to information technology limitations, numerous vacant full-time positions, and decreased operational resources**.
- [Interstate compacts](#) allows applicants to have one multi-state license and the ability to practice in compact states.
- Compacts [create reciprocal professional licensing practices between states](#), while ensuring the quality and safety of services and safeguarding state sovereignty.
- [Compacts exist in](#) medicine, nursing, physical therapy, psychology, emergency medical services, audiology/speech-language pathology, licensed professional counseling and occupational therapy, just to name a few.
- **Only 38 states and the Virgin Islands currently recognize compact licenses**. Maryland is one of them, and in fact **was the first state to establish a nursing compact**.
- Maryland is experiencing a **critical shortage across the spectrum of health occupations**; the two highest shortage areas are **nursing and behavioral health**.

- As I write this, we continue to be in the throes of Covid. Of the 19 Counties and the City of Baltimore, **10 of 19 counties have [hospital bed occupancy rates](#) that are above 90%**; two counties have fewer than 50 beds total; and four have fewer than 100 beds.
- Often, it's not a shortage of beds geographically, but rather, a function of short staffing.

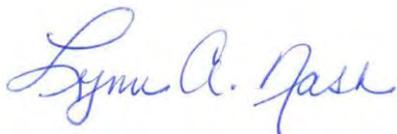
SB 78 mitigates these problems by allowing for a temporary, expedited licensure process, something that Maryland gravely needs. However, **I ask for two amendments.**

- First, remove the one-year application restriction for Veterans, especially if you want to improve the number of available practitioners.
- And second, that you require the establishment of same day, walk-through, temporary licensing, like five other states.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 19 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition ***strongly supports*** Senate Bill 0078 and asks for your ***favorable report with amendments.***

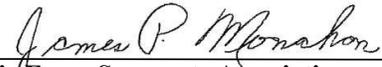
Thank you to Senator Jackson for sponsoring this important legislation and for amending the language in this year's bill to the more inclusive term of "uniformed service". Temporary licensure is one of our top 4 issues. We appreciate his leadership in this critical area and look forward to working with he and Delegate Crosby on this issue. We ask that you review the attached issue paper prior to your deliberation.

Respectfully,

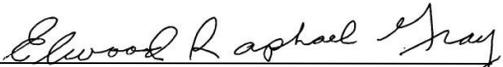
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director
Maryland Military Coalition

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

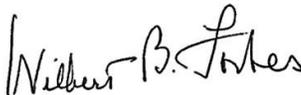

Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society

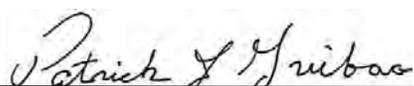

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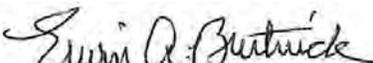

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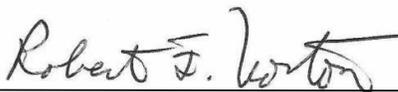

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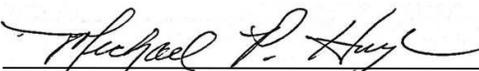

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
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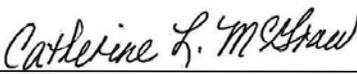

Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars



Issue #3

Expedited Temporary Professional Licensure for Active Duty/Spouses/Veterans

- Maryland has a duty to protect those who receive care. It does this through licensing.
- The **Maryland Board of Nursing continues to experience delays in processing** initial and renewal applications for licensure and certification due to information technology limitations, numerous vacant full-time positions, and decreased operational resources¹.
- The President signed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (HR7939), into federal law on January 5, 2023². Section 705A of the Act, “Portability of Professional Licenses of Servicemembers and Their Spouses” addresses “covered licenses” and states that if a servicemember or spouse relocates his or her residency **because of military orders** for military service to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license, such covered license shall be considered valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied for in the jurisdiction of such new residency for the duration of such military orders”. The law³:
 - Amends Title VII of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 4021 et seq.)
 - **Applies licensing reciprocity between states to all professions except the practice of law**
 - The spouse/service member must:
 - ✓ Provide a copy of the military orders to the new jurisdiction’s licensing authority;
 - ✓ Remain in good standing with the licensing authority that issued the previous license, and with every other licensing authority that has issued a license with a similar scope of practice to that person; good standing = no complaints; active within 2 prior years
 - ✓ Abide by the rules of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction in terms of standards of practice, discipline and meeting any continuing education requirements
 - ✓ Submits to the authority of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.
 - ✓ **NEW** language - If a licensure compact is in place, it takes precedence. 38 states and the Virgin Islands recognize nursing compact licenses. Other occupations have similar rates.
- The Department of Defense has supported similar legislation for over 15 years because they see the portability of licensure as a **readiness issue**.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** HB0196 and SB0078, Temporary Licensure, introduced by Delegate Crosby and Senator Jackson, to help relocating service members, veterans, or military spouses get to work sooner. However, the Coalition asks for an **amendment** to remove the 1-year time restriction for Veterans.

¹ Maryland Board of Nursing. Retrieved from <https://mbon.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

² White House press release, January 5, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2023/01/05/press-release-bills-signed-h-r-680-h-r-897-h-r-1082-h-r-1154-h-r-1917-h-r-7939-s-450-s-989-s-1294-s-1402-s-1541-s-1942-s-2333-s-2834-s-3168-s-3308-s-3405-s-35/>

³ HR7939, Sec. 705A Portability of Professional Licenses of Servicemembers and Their Spouses. Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/7939/text#toc-H2476EF49A12E4D2CA12A1A8F95F96E38>

SB0078-FIN-SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FWA



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 78

February 1, 2023

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 78 – Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

POSITION: Support with Amendment

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** SB 0078.

SB 0078 seeks to require health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meet requirements, require health occupations board to include a check-off box prominently on each license, certification, registration, permit form; and require the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently information on its website. Expediated pathways for licenses, certificates, registrations or permits to members of the military, military spouses or veterans would help alleviate critical healthcare workforce vacancies created by the pandemic.

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) respectfully request the below amendments:

- Page 4, number 3: Add a requirement to meet Maryland standards
- Page 5, lines 23-23: Allow 30 business days, rather than 15 business days, which would allow boards with ample time to review completed applications
- An amendment that allows for a period of 12 months for health occupations boards to review their current processes for service members, veterans, or military spouses and if no expediated process exists, allow these boards to establish expedited pathways for service members, veterans, or military spouses. Once established, requiring health boards to publish these pathways to temporary licenses on their websites

BCHD would be happy to work on amendments that would preserve the intent of this bill and still maintain critical licensure requirements to ensure the safety of Maryland residents

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable with amendment** report on SB 64.

4i - SB 78 - FIN - BOP - LOSWA.pdf

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Position: FWA



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

Damean W.E. Freas Board Chair – Christine Farrelly, Executive Director

4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4777; Email: mbpmail.rcn.com

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: SB 78
TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
COMMITTEE: Finance Committee
POSITION: Letter of Support with Amendments

TITLE: Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill (SB) 78 requires certain health occupation boards, including the Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board), to issue an expedited temporary license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets specific requirements. The bill also permits a health occupations board to apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternate process for licensure that does not meet specific requirements.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Board is submitting a Letter of Support with Amendments for SB 78. Under legislation passed in 2013, the Board has developed procedures to expedite all licenses for service members and spouses, and the process is working well to expedite such licensure. For example, 99% of licenses are issued within ten days of the Board receiving the last qualifying document.

The Board has established multiple pathways for expedited physician licensure, including participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and licensure by endorsement. Physicians who hold a valid license in another state, licensure by endorsement requires a brief application and a criminal history records check. Additionally, the Board has introduced online application processes and licensure by Uniform Application (UA) which allows physicians to apply for licensure in multiple states at a single time. The Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) has also been implemented to verify physician credentials. Efforts are currently being made to fully transition to online applications for all practitioners licensed by the Board for a more streamlined licensure process. The Board, in November 2021, also approved the drafting of regulations to provide additional ease of licensure for service members and their spouses, which may include fee reductions and deferments of continuing education requirements during deployment.

The Board does not issue temporary licenses for any practitioners regulated by the Board. Issuing both temporary and full licenses will slow the process rather than expedite it. The expedited temporary license described in the bill essentially creates a new licensure category that would require two new Board positions (one licensure analyst for physicians and one for allied health

practitioners), an overhaul of the Board's licensure system, and Web-based practitioner profile system, and development of a new application for an expedited temporary license. The Board also would need to promulgate regulations.

The proposed bill does permit a health occupations board to apply to the Secretary of Health for approval of an alternate process for the expedited licensure of service members, veterans, and military spouses. However, the language of the bill does not provide any criteria or objective measures that must be met in order for an alternative process to be approved. Without such explicit provisions, there is no assurance that a board's alternative process would receive approval by the Secretary. In the absence of an approved alternate process, a health occupation board remains obligated to implement a new licensure system.

Therefore, the board recommends striking the language found on page 4, line 29 through page 5, line 6 and replacing it with “a health occupations board may apply to the secretary for exemption due to processes already in place that allows service members, veterans, and military spouses to obtain a license, certificate, registration, or permit under this article in an expedited manner that meets the goals of subsection (a) of this section.”

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact for more information, contact:

Matthew Dudzic
Health Policy Manager
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-5042

Michael Tran
Health Policy Analyst
Maryland Board of Physicians
(410) 764-3786

Sincerely,



Damean W. E. Freas, D.O.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

The opinion of the Boards expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.

4a - SB 78 - FIN - Dental - LOC.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: State of Maryland

Position: UNF



Board of Dental Examiners

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

Arpana S. Verma, President – Christy Collins, Executive Director

55 Wade Avenue Catonsville, MD 21228 Phone: 410-402-8501; Email: mdh.mddentalboard@maryland.gov

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: SB 78 – Health Occupations-Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting - Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (the Board) is submitting this letter of concern for Senate Bill (SB) 78 - Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. The bill requires all health occupations boards, including the Dental Board, to issue a 6-month expedited temporary license, certificate, or registration to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who has applied for a full Maryland license, if the applicant has been licensed and in good standing in another state for at least one year. In addition, the bill allows a health occupations board to issue a 6-month expedited temporary license to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who has applied for a full Maryland license, and who has been licensed in another state for a period less than one year.

The Board is especially concerned with the following provision: (page 4, lines 7-11)

EACH VALID LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, REGISTRATION, OR PERMIT HELD BY THE APPLICANT REQUIRED SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS AS THE LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, REGISTRATION, OR PERMIT FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT HAS APPLIED, AS DETERMINED BY THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD.

The Board does not believe that there are “substantial equivalent” examination requirements in other states for either dentists or dental hygienists. In Maryland, a graduate of an accredited dental school may receive a license if he or she has, among other requirements, passed the American Dental Licensing Examination or the American Dental Hygiene Examination, both administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (“ADEX”). Those examinations are considered the “Gold Standard” of examinations. Although other states’ examination requirements may be facially similar, they are not “substantially equivalent.” In addition, determining that an examination or licensing requirement of another state is not ‘substantially equivalent’ is a subjective determination that may subject the Board to litigation. The Board notes that the ADEX examinations are offered and accepted in 48 states and are taken by the great majority of dentists and dental hygienists seeking licensure, regardless of where they initially considered licensure. If a candidate passed the ADEX examination in another state, the passing score is used for licensure in Maryland. Therefore, there should be no obstacles for those seeking dental or dental hygiene licensure in Maryland, and no real need for a temporary license.

Under the present law, and for a number of years, the Dental Board has expedited the applications for licensure for all service members, veterans, and military spouses. In addition, each applicant has an advisor to assist with the application process. If the applicant does not meet the requirements for licensure the advisor assists the service member, veteran, or military spouse in identifying programs that offer the appropriate education or experience. The Board takes all reasonable steps to help servicemen and servicewomen and their spouses.

In addition, there are states that pose a concern. In New York a candidate may receive a dental license without having taken a clinical examination, and in Delaware candidates for a dental license must take a state administered examination. Both situations raise clinical concerns. The Board does not believe that it is in the public interest to allow dentists who have not completed a rigorous clinical examination as part of the application process to practice while their application for a full license is pending, even for a period of 6 months.

Under the existing law, a dentist who has not passed the ADEX examination may be issued a full Maryland license if they have practiced dentistry in another state for at least 5 years and if they have passed an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state. It is the Board's belief that if a dentist has not passed the ADEX examination he or she should have the required 5 years of practice experience before they are allowed to practice dentistry in Maryland. Harm could be done to the citizens of Maryland during the temporary license period.

Additionally, the Board notes that the applicant may not attempt in earnest to complete the requirements for full licensure, may continue to request continuances for the temporary license, or simply practice without a license once the 6-month temporary license expires.

For these reasons, the Dental Board requests that SB 78 receive an unfavorable report. I hope that this information is helpful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 240-498-8159, asverma93@gmail.com, or Dr. Edwin Morris, the Board's Legislative Committee Chair at 410-218-4203. In addition, the Board's Executive Director, Dr. Christy Collins may be reached at 410-402-8518, christy.collins1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Arpana S. Verma, D.D.S.

Board President

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this letter of concern does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the administration.

4b - SB 78 - FIN - PHARM - LOI.docx.pdf

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Position: INFO



Board of Pharmacy

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

*Jennifer L. Hardesty, Board President – Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Ave. Baltimore MD, 21215 mdh.mdbop@maryland.gov*

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting - Letter of Information

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

SB 78 would require the Board to issue an “expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit” to a qualified “service member, veteran, or military spouse....” § 1-702.1(A)(1). The “expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit” would be valid until (1) six months after the date of issuance or (2) the date on which a full license is issued, whichever is earlier. § 1-702.1(A)(2). SB 78 would require, among other items, the Board to determine whether an applicant’s “license, certificate, registration, or permit...required substantially similar qualifications....” § 1-702.1(A)(3)(II)(3). SB 78 would require, among other items, the Board to verify that an “applicant has completed a national criminal history records check in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. § 1-702.1(A)(3)(V). SB 78 would require, among other items, the Board to verify that an “applicant has submitted an application for full licensure, certification, registration, or permitting.” § 1-702.1(A)(3)(VI). SB 78 would authorize the Board to set an application fee for the “expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit.” § 1-702.1(A)(3)(VII). SB 78 would require the Board to develop a procedure by which an applicant can “prominently” notify the Board of their affiliation with the military. § 1-704(a)(1) – (2). SB 78 would require the Board to collect and report information regarding applications received, processed, not processed, and delayed to the General Assembly starting in 2025. § 1-704(e).

SB 78 would require the Board to create a new class of expedited temporary licenses, registrations, and permits. Additionally, the Board would be required to develop and implement a new monitoring system to track temporary licenses, registrations, and permits that expire six months post issuance or the date on which a full license is issued, whichever is earlier. The Board’s current processing time for completed full applications is 48 hours. Should SB 78 become law, the Board would be required to verify that an “applicant has submitted an application for full licensure, certification, registration, or permitting” as part of the temporary

expedited application process. Accepting both applications would increase the number of forms the Board's licensing specialists process. Additionally, the Board would be required to determine whether an applicant's "license, certificate, registration, or permit...required substantially similar qualifications..." To implement this provision, a member of the licensing staff would be required to compare and evaluate whether the qualifications that supported an applicant's valid license, registration, or permit are substantially similar to the qualifications required to obtain a full license, registration, or permit from the Board. This analysis may require substantial communication with an applicant and correspondence with other licensing entities, which may lead to processing delays. Issuing temporary licenses, registrations, and permits may increase processing time for full licenses, registrations, and permits.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires all health occupations boards to expedite the licensing and registration process for active-duty service members, veterans, and military spouses. *See* Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 1-701 – 706. The Board is in full compliance with the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 and has posted an informational notice on its website regarding the law. The Board provides application assistance to covered persons who submit a request.

The Board supports full employment of veterans, military spouses, and service members; however, creating a new class of expedited temporary permits would create administrative burdens for the Board without providing substantial benefits to covered persons.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director at deena.speights-napata@maryland.gov or (410) 764-4753.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director

4c - SB 78 - FIN - Audiology - LOI.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: INFO



Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists & Music Therapists

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

*Arifa Qureshi, Chair – Oluremi Dean, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4725*

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 78– Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists (the Board) is submitting this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

The Board is in support of ensuring members of the armed forces and their spouses are given an expedited process to obtain licensure. Our Board currently has an expedited licensure process in place which simply requires the service member or their spouse to provide a copy of their DD214 when applying for licensure. Over the past two years, the Board has received less than 5 applications from service members. Therefore, the volume of applications that will be eligible for this expedited process is projected to be minimal. The normal processing time for completed applications for the Board is up to 5 business days. A completed application includes the Board receiving a background check report and all licensure verifications. Completed applications from service members are given priority and processed as soon as possible. With the current processing time of the Board being up to 5 business days, the issuance of a temporary license will not be necessary to obtain. Service members currently can obtain full licensure within the allotted 15 days proposed in SB 78.

To obtain licensure with the Board, licensees must complete the required education and training requirements set forth in the Board's statute and regulations. Currently, the Board does not assist licensees with identifying programs that offer relevant education or training. The Board does not have an ongoing relationship with educational institutions and therefore would not be able to ensure that the suggested programs will satisfy the licensees education or training requirements. The Board does understand that some boards have ongoing partnerships with clinical training programs and educational institutions, however our Board does not at this time. The Board is providing this letter of information to ensure all committee members are aware of the differences between each board and to take into consideration that not all boards may be able to assist service members with education and training recommendations. However, the Board does

support the mandatory implementation of an expedited licensure process for service members, veterans and military spouses.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Executive Director, Oluremi Dean @ Oluremi.Dean@maryland.gov or 410-764-4723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oluremi Dean".

Oluremi Dean, MHA
Executive Director
Board of Examiners for Audiologists,
Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language
Pathologists, & Music Therapists

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

4d - SB78 - FIN - LOI - Occupational Therapy Board

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: INFO



Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

*Wanda R. Banks, Board Chairperson – Lauren Murray, Executive Director
Spring Grove Hospital Center, 55 Wade Avenue, Baltimore MD 21228, 410-402-8556*

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 78– Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans and Military Spouses –
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice (the Board) is submitting this letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 78– Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

The Board regularly issues licenses within 72 hours of receiving all necessary documentation, and its staff further expedites applications for service members, veterans and military spouses. After thorough discussion, the Board finds that there would be almost no situation in which a bill like this would be necessary, considering how quickly occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant licenses are issued.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Executive Director, Lauren Murray at lauren.murray@maryland.gov or 410-402-8556.

Sincerely,

Lauren Murray
Executive Director
Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

4e - SB 78 - FIN - Acupuncture Bd. - LOI.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: INFO



Board of Acupuncture

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

Brandie Armijo, Chair – Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4766

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 78 Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The State Board of Acupuncture (the Board) is submitting this Letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 78 - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

As introduced, SB 78 proposes that the health boards and commissions issue an expedited *temporary* license, certification, registration or permit if a service member, veteran, or military spouse meets the requirements to issue the license, certificate, or registration within 15 business days after receiving a completed application.

The Board has no position on SB 78, as written, especially in consideration of existing statute Health Occupations Article §1-701–705. However, the Board wanted to share the following points for consideration as the bill is reviewed:

1. The Board received 6 applications in the past three years from qualified military service members, veterans or military spouses: and
2. At present, in the past three years, the Board issued a license within six calendar days of receiving the full complete application for each.

SB 78 recognizes the military family experience, which includes relocating multiple times to new communities all over the country. The Board fully supports efforts to ensure that our military families with licensed healthcare practitioners experience minimal professional disruption. However, in consideration of the two aforementioned points, the creation of a temporary license category would likely result in additional fees for the temporary license for service members and their spouses; and would be an additional administrative burden for the Board without resulting in any significant decrease in time that they can practice based on the Board's license issuance rate, which is less than 15 days.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 78 and hopes this information is a

useful contribution to the deliberative process. The Board is open to further discussion as needed. I can be reached at (410)764-5925 or tiffany.smith-williams@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Tiffany L. Smith-Williams, Executive Director
Maryland Board of Acupuncture

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

4f - SB 78 - FIN - Dietetic Bd. - LOI.docx.pdf

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Position: INFO



Board of Dietetic Practice

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

Rebecca J. Snow, MS, CNS, LDN, – Marie Savage, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 318 Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4788

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 78– Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Board of Dietetic Practice (the Board) is submitting this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

The Board currently expedites all applications for service members, veterans, and military spouses. The Board has a paperless licensing system, and the online applications have a check-off box for service members, veterans, and military spouses. Completed applications by service members, veterans and military spouses are top priority and are processed immediately.

The Board receives approximately 300 applications for initial licensure per year. The Board receives maybe one or two applications per year from service members, veterans, or military spouses. The normal processing time for completed applications for the Board is up to 5 business days. A temporary license is not needed for the Board of Dietetic Practice, since the Board already expedites all applications for service members, veterans, and military spouses.

While we agree with the spirit and intent of SB 78, we believe that our current processes of expediting applications are more in line with serving the special circumstances of service members, veterans, and military spouses. Whereas, the process of providing temporary licenses to this group would inadvertently create a longer lead time to licensure and cause additional paperwork.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 410-764-4741 or marie.savage@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Savage
Executive Director
Board of Dietetic Practice

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

4g - SB 78 - FIN - Social Work Bd. - LOI.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: INFO



Board of Social Work Examiners

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

Sondra G. Petty, Chair – Daphne McClellan, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Suite 318 Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-4788

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 78– Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board) is submitting this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting.

The Board supports ensuring members of the armed forces and their spouses are given an expedited process to obtain licensure. Our Board currently has an expedited licensure process in place. In addition, The Board has “Licensure by Endorsement” for **any** candidate who is already licensed in another state. Once the applicant has completed an application for endorsement, submitted the required paperwork and paid the appropriate fees, that individual may practice social work without a license in Maryland for up to six months.

The temporary license proposed in this legislation would create a new category of licensure for social workers in Maryland and necessitate changes to our statute and regulations which are not necessary to achieve the goals set forth in SB 78.

The Board is taking no position on SB 78 at this time but is instead providing this letter of information to make you aware of the processes we already have in place to meet the goals of this legislation.

If you would like more information or to discuss this further, please contact Executive Director, Daphne McClellan @ Daphne.McClellan@maryland.gov or 410-764-4722.

Sincerely,

Daphne McClellan, PhD, MSW
Executive Director
Board of Social Work Examiners

The opinion of the Board expressed in this letter of information does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

4h - SB 78 - FIN - BON -LOI_WA.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland State of

Position: INFO



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 0078 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 78 – Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting. This bill requires each health occupations board to issue an expedited temporary license or certificate to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; requires each health occupations board to include a checkbox prominently on a license or certification application form; and requires the Maryland Department of Health to publish certain information on its website.

The Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013 requires the Board to expedite the licensure and certification process for military – affiliated applicants. The Board may issue a temporary license or certificate of a period of ninety (90) days after verifying the completion of requirements. If an applicant is unable to meet certain statutory requirements, the temporary license or certificate can be extended at the discretion of the executive director for an additional ninety (90) days.

The Board believes this bill acts to supplement the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013. The most notable changes for the Board include the (1) issuance of an expedited temporary license or certificate for a period of six (6) months; (2) verification of military and/or marriage documents; and (3) the development of a checkbox to notify the Board of an applicant’s military affiliation. The Board may be provided more flexibility by applying to the Secretary to approve an alternative process for issuing expedited temporary licenses or certificates.

The Board respectfully submits the following amendment to strengthen the conditions under which a temporary license or certificate is denied. A notice to deny is issued when the Board determines, through a positive criminal history records check (CHRC), that an applicant has a history of previous disciplinary action against their license or an unrelated criminal conviction that resulted in a penalty. It would be inappropriate for the Board to issue a notice of denial to applicants who had not received a positive CHRC. The amendment would allow the Board to assist the military – affiliated applicant if they do not initially meet the education, training, or

experience requirements for licensure or certification through a mechanism established by the Veterans Employment Act.

On page 3. After Line 19. Add:

(III) THE DATE UPON WHICH A HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD DETERMINES THAT A SERVICE MEMBER, VETERAN, OR MILITARY SPOUSE DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for SB 78.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Iman Farid, Health Planning and Development Administrator, at iman.farid@maryland.gov or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.